



Lincoln Business Watch



Winter Issue

THE "NET"

No Shoes, No Shirt, a Gun; No Service

The Concealed Carry of handguns state law went into effect January 01, 2007. ***The law describes a handgun as:*** any firearm with a barrel length less than sixteen inches in length or any firearm designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand. The statute has many requirements that must first be met before a person can obtain a Concealed Carry permit. A person must be 21 years of age, not be under any type of court supervision, and shall not be found or plead or otherwise convicted guilty of any felony or crime of violence. These are just a few of the requirements an applicant must meet before qualifying for a concealed handgun permit is given. Along with requirements there are numerous places that are prohibited from someone carrying a concealed handgun. Schools and school grounds, government buildings, financial institutions and bars are just a few. Similarly a person who is or already has consumed alcohol may not carry a concealed handgun. Any place of business can be considered a prohibited place if the appropriate action is taken. A prohibited place is defined in the statute as, a place or premise where the person(s) or the employer in control of the property has prohibited permit holders from carrying concealed handguns into or onto the place or premises. Any business open to the public must either have a sign posted prohibiting concealed carry or otherwise made notice to someone in person who is carrying concealed to remove the gun from the premises. Guns that are stored in vehicles while on the property are not a violation as long as the gun is not removed from the vehicle. This statute is lengthy and complex. If you have questions about this law contact either the Lincoln Police Department at 441-7204 or the Nebraska State Patrol at 471-4545.



CRIME TRENDS

Between 1-1-06 thru 11-30-06 the police department has handled 129,342 calls for service. The first number will be the number of reported incidents. The second number is how many incidents have been cleared with an arrest.

NORTHWEST TEAM

Commercial Robbery - 10/6
Commercial Burglary - 105/23
Shoplifting - 294/223
Forgery - 475/303

CENTER TEAM

Com. Robbery - 3/1
Com. Burglary - 100/24
Shoplifting - 103/65
Forgery - 153/102

NORTHEAST TEAM

Commercial Robbery - 6/3
Commercial Burglary - 96/27
Shoplifting - 449/395
Forgery - 296/232

SOUTHWEST TEAM

Commercial Robbery - 5/3
Commercial Burglary - 75/21
Shoplifting - 199/160
Forgery - 255/212

SOUTHEAST TEAM

Commercial Robbery - 11/7
Commercial Burglary - 138/88
Shoplifting - 241/176
Forgery - 334/241

Alvo Rd.
Fletcher Ave.
Havlock Ave.
Adams St.
Holdrege St.
O St.
A St.
Van Dorn St.
Pioneers Blvd.
Old Cheney Rd.
Pine Lake Rd.

“The NET”

Lincoln Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
575 S. 10th Street

Return Service Requested

Protect Your Business from Fraud and Forgery

The Lincoln Police Department's Checks and Frauds Unit investigates reports of check forgery and fraud. The unit is staffed by one sergeant and three officers. In 2005, investigators initiated 1385 forgery investigations and 106 fraud investigations. Of these cases, 833 were cleared. The total loss as a result of these incidents was \$2,346,343. It is estimated that only 1 out of every 4 offenses are ever reported to the police department.

To avoid becoming the victim of a financial crime, your business should set guidelines regarding the types of checks that will be accepted. Personal checks, two-party checks, payroll checks and government or travelers checks can all be easily counterfeited on a home computer. Make certain each check is examined carefully when it is received by employees.

Be suspicious of checks that have:

- ≈ Information pre-written on the check such as drivers license numbers
- ≈ Account numbers that appear to have been altered or scratched off, which allows the check to bypass check authorization software
- ≈ Inconsistent signatures. Be wary of people who take too much time and care signing their name or who try to distract you.

Businesses should also:

- ≈ Insist on proper identification for all checks and credit cards.
- ≈ Never accept a temporary check, a check with typewritten names and addresses or a check that does not match the identification provided
- ≈ Make a clear check acceptance policy. Post it prominently, so no customer feels singled out if you ask for identification. Make certain all employees follow your procedures.

During investigations of fraud and forgery it was revealed that groups of criminals hold meetings to exchange stolen checkbooks, discuss which businesses to target, which types of frauds and forgeries are working, which businesses have active loss prevention personnel and which businesses have surveillance video.

Critics point to the fact that crime rates have dropped for those who adopted “zero tolerance” policies towards all crime. All businesses should review their current policies towards thefts, forgery, and fraud as well as loss prevention including personnel and surveillance equipment. Motivating and training employees to detect fraudulent or suspicious behavior is crucial to preventing crime. By following these steps, you will certainly reduce your odds of falling victim to these types of crimes. If you have questions please contact the LPD forgery unit at 441-7204.